



OFFICE OF GOVERNOR ANDY BESHEAR
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Crystal Staley
502.545.3714
Crystal.Staley@ky.gov

Scottie Ellis
502.330.1722
Scottie.Ellis@ky.gov

**Gov. Beshear Celebrates Groundbreaking for New Hangar at Muhlenberg
County Airport**

*Kentucky Department of Aviation invests \$1.7 million for project to support Madisonville
Community College Fixed Wing Aviation Program*

GREENVILLE, Ky. (Aug. 17, 2022) – Today, Gov. Andy Beshear attended a groundbreaking ceremony at the Muhlenberg County Airport to celebrate an upcoming hangar project to support the Madisonville Community College Fixed Wing Aviation Program based at the airport.

“My administration will always put education first, and that’s why I’m proud we are investing in this incredible opportunity for Madisonville Community College students,” **Gov. Beshear** said. “The Fixed Wing Aviation Program will help prepare them for jobs of the future that are coming right here to the commonwealth. These dollars are also helping support transportation and economic development in Muhlenberg County as the community continues to recover from last year’s historic tornadoes.”

This first phase will focus on developing a taxiway connector and aircraft ramp, among other upgrades. Phase 2 will follow next year with the construction of a \$1.4 million hangar. The Kentucky Department of Aviation is investing approximately \$1.7 million for Phase 1 design plans and exterior infrastructure improvements to accommodate the future hangar to house flight school aircraft, maintenance operations and personnel. KDA will provide a 5% state match for Phase 2.

“Aviation is at the heart of Kentucky’s transportation system and is a vital part of our potential for future growth,” **Sen. Whitney Westerfield of Crofton** said. “Muhlenberg County’s Airport,

one of Kentucky’s 59 General Aviation airfields, is an important piece of that system. I’m thankful for the partnerships and funding at the federal, state and local levels that have helped invest in our airport. Muhlenberg County continues to recover from the loss of coal industry jobs and from last year’s devastating tornado. I’m honored to share in welcoming good news for our people.”

“I’m thrilled to see the hard work and persistence of all those committed to making this a reality for our community,” **Rep. Melinda Gibbons Prunty of Belton** said. “This is a fantastic opportunity for our young people and anyone interested in aviation. It would not be possible without the involvement of Madisonville Community College, the Felix E. Martin, Jr. Foundation, the Muhlenberg County Airport Board, fiscal court and all the state and local agencies involved, as well as so many others who are passionate about making a career in aviation possible as well as the opportunity for economic development that it will bring. I know Danny Walker is smiling down on Muhlenberg County today, and I think we all recognize this project is a powerful part of his legacy. I am humbled to have played a role in bringing it to fruition.”

“It is a great day for the Muhlenberg County Airport and Madisonville Community College,” **Muhlenberg County Airport Board Chair A.D. Pollock** said.

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